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NEW MALDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

(IN THE COUNTY OF SURREY.)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
1894.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES :

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NEW MALDEN, SURREY,

February 5th, 1895.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my duties as your Medical Officer, I hand you my Annual Report in the past year as to the health of your district, and the means taken to preserve it in a good healthy condition.

The Report for 1893 was not a bad one, but this is far better.

New Malden, as you well know, is like other London suburbs, composed of inhabitants rich and poor. It contains good class, well-built large houses, and inferior small ones. It is rapidly rising into importance, and yearly getting more and more a first-class residential district. It behoves us therefore to do all we can to maintain the district in a good healthy condition and to pay attention to every sanitary detail.

You will see by the tables at the end of this Report (to which I refer you) that the estimated population to the middle of last year was 3,800, on which is estimated the birth rate, death rate and zymotic death rate. The acreage of your district is 1,046, which gives you 3·6 persons to the acre.

Mr. Davison reports that during the year eleven new houses have been built and eight are now building, with these, when completed, you will have about 800 houses in your district, which estimate gives 4·7 persons per house.

110 births have been registered, being one less than in 1893 ; 56 were boys and 54 girls (35 in the first quarter, 27 in the second, 27 in the third and 21 in the fourth). The birth rate for the year was 28·9 per thousand. The births exceeded the deaths by 67.

The number of deaths registered during last year was 43, being 9 less than in 1893. Twenty-four were males and 19 females (15 in the first quarter, 4 in the second, 9 in the third, and 15 in the fourth). The maximum death rate for the past year was 11·3 per thousand, but deducting two deaths of persons not belonging to your district will make the death rate to be 10·7.

As a rule, the denser the population the higher the death rate. Therefore, if the surrounding districts with low death rates were to join Kingston, which has the highest death rate round here, the tendency would appear to increase our death rate and lower theirs. But little importance is to be attached to death rates calculated without reference to the ages of the population, or in the case of small populations when estimated for short periods.

You will find statistics as to ages in full detail in the tables at end of this report ; therefore I will not refer to them. The largest number of deaths occurred at the beginning and end of the year, and over one-third occurred in children under one year.

The zymotic death rate was ·5 per thousand, which, according to the neighbouring reports at present published, is the lowest of any round here. The death rate for phthisis was ·7 per thousand ; 7 deaths were due to chest diseases, viz., pneumonia, bronchitis and pleurisy ; heart disease caused 8 deaths ; consumption, 3 deaths ; cancer, 2 (as against 6 in 1893) ; 7 deaths were due to diseases of the nervous system ; one death was due to accident. Two inquests were held during the year.

Under the Diseases Notification Act, 47 certificates were sent me, which is 12 less than in the previous year. These were :—

SCARLET FEVER : 15 cases.

Twelve were primary and 3 secondary (that is, caught from the first 12); 9 attended the same school. One case occurred in the family of a milkman, but as stringent measures were at once adopted no fresh case arose from this source. The origin of two of the cases could not be ascertained. Fourteen cases arose in the early part of the year. The last case, in July, was removed to the Kingston Infirmary. No deaths occurred.

ENTERIC FEVER : 3 cases

occurred in February, March and December. In one of the houses there was a dirty cistern, but with this exception all drainage was satisfactory. No deaths from this cause.

DIPHTHERIA : 14 cases.

The greatest number were in February and December. The origin of 7 cases were unknown; 5 were from defective drainage; including a dirty cistern, which had not been cleaned out for 7 months. The sources of two cases were traced outside your district. There were no deaths from this disease.

How often do we find mild cases of sore throat occurring which are not thought much of till a more severe case occurs in the same family, taken to a medical man and found to be a typical case of diphtheria. We have had a great many cases of follicular tonsilitis. I look upon all these throat cases as infectious, requiring isolation, discrimination and care.

ERYSIPELAS : 3 cases

occurred at various times during the year. The drainage in all the houses was good.

MEASLES : 12 cases

occurred in second and last months of the year. In one case only could the source be not traced. One family had three cases, another 2 ; 9 were primary and 3 secondary. The sources of the 9 primary cases were traced outside the district.

SMALL POX.

There has been none. The public are getting more faith in vaccination, particularly when calf lymph is used.

CHICKEN POX.

A few cases during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH.

A few cases at different times during the year have occurred, causing two deaths.

INFLUENZA

of a severe type, causing one death, appeared at the beginning and end of the year and is still amongst us. We have had no cholera, though, as in other districts, I have received notification when any residents have landed from an infected port. In each case they have been kept under supervision till all chance of the appearance of the disease has disappeared.

Directly an infectious disease occurs means are at once taken as to isolation, and printed directions issued, and being on the spot, I am enabled to deal with the matter far more speedily than one at a distance. If a child is taken ill and attending school, the authorities of that school are requested not to re-admit any child absent for more than three

days without a medical certificate. Being a school manager myself I am enabled to insure these means being carried out. I would take this opportunity of thanking those medical men who have given me valuable aid in this respect during the year.

Up to this time, as your district has not been so much populated, you have not perhaps felt the need of an Isolation Hospital, but as your numbers increase, this need will be more felt. If Coombe and Malden join, I hope there may be a chance of obtaining a share of the Tolworth Isolation Hospital at no distant date. This would be a great boon as it would not be far to move patients.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

And now I come to the Sanitary Work of the year. The sanitary condition of your district is improving from year to year, and I am sure the inhabitants realize the importance of good drainage and water supply, so essential for the maintenance of good health.

Mr. Davison reports that during the year :—

34 nuisances have been abated.

24 cesspools have been done away with and filled up.

44 houses have been connected with the sewers.

11 houses have had new additions built.

70 gallons of disinfectants have been given away, and

47 houses have been disinfected.

All house drains are now tested with water before being covered up.

House and other refuse is collected from each house once a week, and taken to the Sewage Works and burnt.

I have myself made 276 visits during the year, and the above mentioned sources of possible injury to health have been removed, in accordance with my suggestions and by methods subject to my approval.

The Dairies and Cowsheds, also the Bake-houses, have been inspected from time to time and found as a rule satisfactory. When any deviations from the bye-laws occur, when pointed out, the owners have always been willing to and do remedy the defects. When we get a combination with Coombe and Old Malden, all the milk (with one or two exceptions) will be supplied from cows inside the district.

I now come to the question of water supply. Though I recapitulate, from year to year, what perhaps I have said before, I must do so again, as a good water supply is most important.

At this time of the year, when floods are frequent, all drinking water should be boiled or well filtered by means of one of the improved filters for domestic use. One cistern should supply closets, and a separate cistern kept for drinking and cooking purposes. Cisterns must be placed in places convenient for cleansing frequently, or the tenants do not take the trouble to see that they are clean. One case of diphtheria was suspiciously due to a dirty cistern.

I hope before long we shall have for this district a constant water supply, we shall then be able to do away with cisterns, except to closets.

The water cart used during the dusty months of the year has been a great help to keeping your roads in good repair.

I have had two cases of overcrowding to deal with during the year, but these were soon rectified on notice being given.

Your sewage works have been much improved of late, and seem from evidence given at the recent

enquiries to be quite capable of taking in the extra sewage of Coombe and Old Malden. If well managed and well looked after there is no reason that the works should be at all offensive to the immediate neighbourhood. I am of opinion, however, that constant pumping of the sewage, so as to ensure its delivery in a perfectly fresh state for treatment, before any decomposition takes place, is absolutely essential. In order to secure these results, and in order also to secure an effluent which will prove perfectly satisfactory at all times, I would recommend that an eminent consulting engineer, who has given the treatment of sewage his particular attention, be retained to advise the Board from time to time. It would also be well for the effluent to flow over white glazed bricks or tiles before discharging into the river.

In conclusion I would remark that during the late rainy season, when floods were rife at places near the Thames and districts around us, with exception of water being in two or three cellars, your district was high and dry. We did not suffer as we are well placed; we are several feet above Kingston, and some parts of your district are more than 50 feet above sea level.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours faithfully,

EDWIN CHILD.

F. S. MERRYWEATHER, ESQ.

A **TABLE OF DEATHS.**
During the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of **NEW MALDEN**, classified according to Diseases and Ages.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	Mortality from All Causes, at Subjoined Ages.							Mortality from Subjoined Causes, Distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	Fever.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
								Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous (roup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	(continued	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	(cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping (cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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Area of Population of the District or Division to which this return relates	{	Area in acres	...	1046	Death Rates {	General	...	11·3 per 1,000 of population.
		Population (1891)...	3437			Infant	...	145·5 per 1,000 births registered.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,
Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Urban
B Sanitary District of NEW MALDEN, classified according to Diseases and Ages.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											Number of such Cases removed from their Homes for Treatment in Isolation Ward of Kingston Infirmary.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Fevers.					Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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State here whether “ Notification of Infectious Disease ” is compulsory in the District.—Yes. Since when?—1891.
There is no infectious hospital in the district, but there may be an opening of using a part of Tolworth Hospital at no distant period.

